



ATEM 1100.314 • Freshman Seminar • Fall 2016

Class will meet in RHW 2.400. Wednesday: 3:00pm-3:50pm

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Drop-in hours: Mondays 10-12:00 and by appointment

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General Course Information

Pre-reqs/ You must complete the CLA+ by Friday, September 3. Students who fail to meet this deadline
Co-reqs/ will receive no credit for ATEM 1100 and repeat ATEM 1100 in Fall 2016. You cannot graduate
Restrictions from The University of Texas at Dallas without completing the CLA+.

Course Description The ATEM 1100 Freshman Seminar introduces incoming freshmen to the intellectual and cultural foundations of the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication (ATEC). This introduction seeks to help students transition successfully to college by engaging them in active learning, valuing a diverse community, and developing meaningful connections to the university community, which in turn will help students live, learn, and connect through their programs of study – strategies which will help them throughout life.

Learning Outcomes By the end of the Freshman Seminar, students should know how to:

- Relate the core curriculum learning outcomes and degree program outcomes to the goal of being an educated individual in a democratic society after completion of their degree;
- Examine their own skills as an incoming university student through self-assessment, then compare that assessment to the skills necessary for success as university students – including critical thinking skills, communication skills, teamwork skills, empirical and quantitative skills, and social and personal responsibility;
- Use new skills to develop a roadmap to academic success; and
- Integrate into the university community.

Required Materials

- Notebook
- Flash drive

Assignments & Academic Calendar

ATEM 1100 assignments are designed to help you synthesize critical media theory and develop stronger analytical argumentation skills. You will find more detailed assignments in eLearning as the semester progresses.

If you do not take the CLA+ by September 3, you will earn no credit for ATEM 1100.

<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
CLA+		September 3
Development/ Discovery requirement		
Milestone 1	50	September 30
Milestone 2	150	November 6
Final deliverable	450	December 9
Group presentation	150	December 9
Event attendance	100	
Class participation	100	
TOTAL POINTS	1000	

CLA+: You will take the CLA+, a 90-minute standardized exam, in the Testing Center. The exam assesses critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving, and written communication skills.

Development/ Discovery requirement: Throughout the semester, you will synthesize course materials into a D/D collection that develops your personal plan for success at UTD and beyond.

Group presentation: Small groups will research, prepare and record a presentation analyzing an alternate career path for their major.

Event attendance: You will attend five different events during the semester and prepare a short reflection about each. Each event will need to satisfy a different category:

- ATEC
- Professional
- Service
- Social
- Wellness
- Diversity

Voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014, the Comet Creed is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.

The following course-specific policies supplement the standard UT Dallas policies that you must know and follow (available at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>).

Course Policies

I use a criteria-based rather than norm-based (curved) grading system. I generally assess your work according to the resourcefulness with which it fulfills the criteria set out in the assignment specifications and demonstrates insightful understanding of course concepts by synthesizing diverse elements and offering nuanced critical evaluation.

Grading Criteria

All work should conform to professional and ethical standards, so proofread and edit all work that you submit in this class for clarity, mechanics, and style issues. Professionalism also means that you use appropriate source citation wherever and whenever necessary to avoid violations of copyright. In the interest of clarity, you should cite your source not just when you quote directly or paraphrase but also when you replicate the sequence of ideas from a source. You should also cite any source from which you borrow any visual information, including images, tables, charts, or screen shots. Please use standard [MLA](#) formatting for all reference citations.

You should not submit any work for this course that you developed for another course without permission from both course instructors. While you may explore topics across courses, the work you submit for ATEM 1100 should be substantially different from the work that you submit in any other course.

I will assign final grades according to the 2014-16 UTD Undergraduate Catalog scale:

		B+	870-899	C+	770-799	D+	670-699		
A	930-1000	B	830-869	C	730-769	D	630-669	F	0-599
A-	900-929	B-	800-829	C-	700-729	D-	600-629		

Special

Consideration: Extra Credit, Late Work, and Make-up Work

Even if you become my new best friend and you move next door to me so that we may grow old together, I do not curve individual items, nor do I offer “special consideration” such as extra credit or revising and resubmitting work to raise your grade. If a personal situation arises during the semester that may affect your classroom performance, please talk to me sooner rather than later. If you wait until the end of the semester, I won’t be able to help you. I can work with you more easily if you speak to me when the situation arises. I can’t help you if I don’t know you need help.

Unreasonable bosses, time travel glitches, court appearances, tornados or other cataclysmic acts of nature, Facebook crises, bachelor or bachelorette parties, *The Bachelor* watching parties, Twitter wars, binge watching *House of Cards*, the Syrian Electronic Army hacking your website, and other calamities do not excuse late work. Start your work early and save it often – ideally in several places.

Any assignment submitted late will lose 25% of the possible points for each 24-hour period following the deadline. I reserve make-up privileges for university-specified circumstances. If you must miss class or deadlines for such reasons, you should make arrangements with me in advance.

The following participation and attendance policies apply to both the large group meetings and to the small group discussion sections.

Woody Allen might argue that 80% of success is showing up, but simply showing up won't generate 80% of the possible participation points. Your participation grade reflects how you attend class, share your ideas, participate in classwork, engage your classmates, and behave with respect toward them. Your comments and insights contribute to the class's success, so you must attend class prepared to discuss material as a public, interactive process. Everyone benefits when you engage alternative perspectives, challenge interpretations, and invite constructive arguments – so long as you do so with an appreciation for both differences and points of agreement.

This grade explicitly includes civility and professionalism in all course communication and behavior. This civility includes contributing to conversations, respecting others' opinions, working together in a spirit of cooperation, and actively listening to those who are speaking. Some of the ways you can demonstrate your skills in this area include (but certainly are not limited to):

**Class
Participation**

- Keeping the class in the foreground of your attention.
- Showing respect to your peers and to the instructor in your listening and communicating behaviors.
- Participating actively in class rather than simply waiting to be called on.
- Adding value with your contributions to discussion, such as connecting disparate ideas, bringing topical information to the table, and asking insightful questions.
- Taking responsibility for the consequences of your choices and actions.
- Demonstrating a strong work ethic by engaging all ungraded work (such as completing assigned readings, minor homework, and in-class exercises) with a mindfulness and timeliness to reflect a professional approach to the class.

The preceding points frame class engagement in a positive light, but I also note violations of the implied classroom contract even though I may not call you on them.

Work assigned for this class carries no less priority than work you may have to complete for any other class or job. Classroom lectures, discussions, and activities do not lend themselves to summary after the fact. Moreover, class participation is a vital part of your learning process. Indeed, studies show that regular class attendance is the single best predictor of academic performance – more so than study habits, study skills, or standardized tests.

**Class
Attendance**

What happens in Vegas, stays² in Vegas. You may miss up to two classes for any reason without penalty, but each subsequent absence will decrease your final grade in the course, with excessive absences potentially resulting in failure of the course. Notice that no adjectives modify “absence.” I make no distinction between

² Crede, Marcus; Roch, Sylvia G.; and Kieszczynka, Urszula M. 2010. Class Attendance in College: A meta-analytic review of the relationship of class attendance with grades and student characteristics. *Review of Educational Research* 80: 272-295.

“excused” and “unexcused” absences, so you neither need to ask my permission nor provide documentation when you need to miss class to attend a pole dancing competition in Vegas (or for any other more mundane reason).

Unless you have a disability, religious holy day, or other university-specified accommodation, the excellence of your excuse is not a factor; you either attend class or not. Absences that do not fall into one of these categories will incur a 25 point penalty for the participation grade.

If you know this policy conflicts with other commitments you have, please discuss this with me during the first week of classes.

Digital Devices

You may use laptops, tablets, cell phones, and other digital devices so long as you use them responsibly and respectfully. If your digital device disturbs other students or interferes with your ability to participate meaningfully in class activities, you may be asked to remove the distraction and/or leave class, thus losing credit for any of the day’s activities. Please silence device notification settings before class begins and refrain from accepting calls in class.

That said, I encourage you to take notes by hand, whether that means using a stylus on a tablet or old-fashioned pen and paper. Studies increasingly find that people remember information more effectively when they take notes by hand because they have to listen more actively to decide what matters rather than mindlessly typing everything said in class.³

Tobacco-Free Zone

In accordance with university policy, neither tobacco nor e-cigs – including non-tobacco flavors – shall be used in class.

³ Mueller, Pam A. and Oppenheimer, Daniel M. 2014. The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of longhand over laptop note taking. *Psychological Science* 25: 1159-1168.

FALL 2016 ATEM 1100.001 COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	DELIVERABLES
8.22	University Culture and Community	
8.24	College vs. High School	
8.29	Maximizing College	
8.31	Campus Services	9.03: CLA+ deadline
9.05	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
9.07	Small groups do not meet	
9.12	Social Media Savvy	
9.14	Professional Communication	9.18: Event 1 deadline
9.19	Group Processes/Collaboration	
9.21	Getting Involved	
9.26	Creative Thinking	
9.28	Making Smart Choices	9.28: D/D milestone 1
10.03	Critical Thinking	
10.05	Group Video Assignment	10.09: Event 2 deadline
10.10	Practical Thinking	
10.12	Wellness	
10.17	Taking Risks	
10.19	Midterm Madness	10.23: Event 3 deadline
10.24	Portfolio Development	
10.26	Managing the College Environment	
10.31	Effective Critique Skills	
11.02	Civility in a Diverse Society	11.06: D/D milestone 2
11.07	Personality Inventory	
11.09	Relationships	
11.14	Careers and Internships	
11.16	Money/Budgeting	11.20: Event 4 deadline
11.21	FALL BREAK	
11.23	FALL BREAK	
11.28	Research Labs	
11.30	Work Day	12.04: Event 5 deadline
12.05	Course Wrap Up	
12.07	Course Wrap Up	12.09: Final D/D and Group Video deadline

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.